

Message Text

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14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN EI

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE ECONOMIC TALKS ANNOUNCED

REF. DUBLIN 1894 (NOTAL)

1. IRISH PRIME MINISTER LIAM COSGRAVE HAS INVITED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IRISH CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS AND THE IRISH EMPLOYERS'S CONFEDERATION TO MEET WITH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ON SEPTEMBER 27 TO BEGIN TALKS ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING IN IRELAND. COSGRAVE HAS PROPOSED THAT THE TALKS COVER A BROAD SPECTRUM OF ECONOMIC ISSUES INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT, INCOMES STRATEGY, PUBLIC REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, WELFARE AND PRICES. THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE REPRESENTED IN THE TALKS BY MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND LABOR.

2. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT COINCIDED WITH THE ENTRY INTO FORCE SEPTEMBER 16 OF THE NATIONAL PAY AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR WAGE INCREASES OF 3 TO 5 POUNDS WEEKLY FOR A PERIOD OF 5 MONTHS. OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE IS TO ESTABLISH A CONSENSUS ON MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY, REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AND CURB INFLATION. IT SHOULD SET A FRAMEWORK FOR 1977 NATIONAL PAY AGREEMENT WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HOPES WOULD

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PROVIDE FOR THE SETTING OF WAGE INCREASES WITHIN THE CONTEXT

OF AGREED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES.

3. THE TRIPARTITE TALKS ARE A HOPEFUL SIGN OF THE WILLINGNESS OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED TO FIND A WAY TO COME TO GRIPS WITH ECONOMIC REALITIES. WITH INFLATION RUNNING ON 17 PERCENT TO 18 PERCENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 11 PERCENT, THE UNIONS, EMPLOYERS AND GOVERNMENT ARE UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO HALT FURTHER EROSION IN THE ECONOMY.

CURLEY

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